

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 70-72 have been canceled herein, and claims 28 and 29 have previously been canceled. Claims 11, 16, 24, 25, 27, 30, 31, 37, 57, and 62 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-27 and 30-69 are presently pending with claims 1, 5, 17, 24, 31, 39, 47, 51, and 63 being independent.

Initially, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-10, 14, 15, 17-24, 26, 30, 32-36, 39-56, 60, 61, 63-69 in the Office Action dated January 5, 2006. Also in the Action, claims 24-25, 27, 30-31, and 37 are objected to because of various informalities. Applicant has made the requested amendments in order to place these claims in condition for allowance. Applicant further notes that claim 51 is listed in the Action as being objected to; however, no specific objections are identified in the Action. Thus, Applicant has not amended this claim.

In the present Action, claims 11-13, 16, 25, 27, 31 37-38, 57-59, 62, and 70-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the U.S. Patent No. 2,296,268 to Buchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,086,019 to Poole. Applicant has rewritten claims 11, 16, 25, 27, 31, 37, 57, and 62 to depend from the corresponding allowed independent claims. Therefore, the rejected claims now depend directly or indirectly from allowed independent claims and should now be in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 10/710,939
Amdt. dated April 5, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 5, 2006

In view of the foregoing, the present application should now be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (800) 445-3460.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

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